



Education & Children's Services

Improving Lives Together

Ambition | Compassion | Integrity



Reserved Places

The Education (Scotland) Act 1996 and the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 provide a legal requirement to reserve places within schools where some or all classes/stages are nearing capacity.

The purpose is to allow children moving into the catchment area of a school a greater likelihood of attending that school. The reserved places are reviewed by Lifelong Learning Committee in March each year. Each school will be contacted in January seeking an indication of:

- (a) the required number of reserved places, (if any)
- (b) the stage in which the places are required

Once the reserved places have been agreed by Lifelong Learning Committee, these cannot be amended or moved during the school session. Reserved places cannot be allocated to children from outwith the catchment area as these must be maintained for pupils who are reasonably expected to move into the catchment area during the school session and is a legal reason for refusing [placing requests](#).

The criteria for identifying reserved places are listed below

- schools which are close to capacity in some or all classes/stages
- the guidance contained in the Scottish Office Circular 8/96 which gave examples of the types of situation which could be taken into account including:
 - historical or anticipated patterns of migration,
 - information about known movements of families into (or out of) an area
 - any current residential development in the area.
- the possible pattern of movement indicated by the current session's trends and roll projections
- the scheme be justifiable and operated fairly